

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 USIA-12 FBIE-00 SMI-01 SCI-01

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P R 050812Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 9931
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6121

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, TW
SUBJECT: PEKING MAN FOSSILS AND CHRISTOPHER JANUS

REF: STATE 192852

1. DURING HIS THREE DAY VISIT TO TAIPEI, JANUS
WAS BRIEFED BY EMBASSY AND MET WITH MINISTER WITHOUT
PORTFOLIO GEORGE YEH, CURATORS OF NATIONAL PALACE
AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUMS, AND VARIOUS
SCHOLARS AT THE ACADEMIA SINICA. ACCORDING TO JANUS,
ALL CHINESE HERE WITH WHOM HE DISCUSSED HIS QUEST WERE
FRIENDLY AND FORTHCOMING BUT ALL DERIDED IDEA
THAT PEKING MAN FOSSILS WERE ON TAIWAN.

2. JANUS RECEIVED FAIR AMOUNT OF PRESS COVERAGE
AND AT SUGGESTION OF DR. HO HAO-TIEN, DIRECTOR OF
NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE
AT WHICH HE ANNOUNCED US\$150,000 REWARD FOR
INFORMATION LEADING TO RECOVERY OF FOSSILS. PRESS
ACCOUNTS OF NEWS CONFERENCE QUOTED JANUS AS SAYING
THAT FOSSILS, IF FOUND, WOULD BE RETURNED TO REPUBLIC
OF CHINA; HOWEVER, JANUS MAINTAINS HE SIMPLY SAID
FOSSILS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCHERS. ALTHOUGH PRESS NOTED JANUS HAD VISITED
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MAINLAND LAST YEAR, WE HAVE SEEN NO ACCOUNTS SUGGESTING

HIS QUEST WAS INSPIRED BY OR AT THE DIRECTION OF PRC.
SIMILARLY, WE HAVE SEEN NO SUGGESTIONS THAT USG
INVOLVED IN SEARCH.

3. JANUS DEPARTS FOR HONG KONG OCTOBER 6 (FLIGHT NOT
YET FIRM) TO FOLLOW UP LEADS SUGGESTING PERSONS RESIDING
IN COLONY MAY HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF FOSSILS' WHEREABOUTS.
HE INTENDS CALL AT CONGEN AND WE HAVE SUGGESTED HE CALL
ON DAVID DEAN.
GLEYSTEEN

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